

Message Text

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O 052049Z MAR 75 ZFF4

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO WHITE HOUSE

UNCLAS STATE 049361

TOSEC 17, WHITE HOUSE PLEASE PASS TO SAM 86970

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (CORRECTED TOSEC NO. TO 17 VICE 14)

FOLOWING REPEAT TEL AVIV 1446 ACTION SECSTATE INFO
JERUSALEM CAIRO LONDON 5 MARCH.

QUOTE

UNCLAS TEL AVIV 1446

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR XF IS EG US

SUBJ: ISRAELI PRESS ON NEGOTIATIONS

1. MARCH 5 JERUSALEM POST CARRIES WASHINGTON DATELINED
BLITZER STORY " SYRIA IS FLY IN OINTMENT--KISSINGER."
CITING CONGRESSMEN PRESENT AT BREAKFAST MEETING WITH
SECRETARY ON MARCH 4, BLITZER SAYS SECRETARY EXPRESSED
CONCERN ABOUT SYRIA ATTEMPS TO UNDERMINE HIS NEXT ROUND
OF SHUTTLE DIPLOMACY, AND SAID SYRIA WAS LEADING DRIVE
IN ARAB WOULD AGAINST ANOTHER AGREEMENT. " CONGRESSMEN"
TOLD JP THAT SECRETARY SOUNDED LESS OPTIMISTIC THAN IN
PAST, AND ALLEGED THAT HE SAID PROSPECTS FOR SUCCESSFUL
AGREEMENT "WOULD BE 50-50" WITHOUT SYRIA'S ATTEMPTS TO
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SABOTAGE IT. MOST OTHER PAPERS ALSO CARRY THIS STORY.

2. HAARETZ FRONTPAGES STORY BY MARGALIT: " DR. KISSINGER, IS EQUIPPED WITH A PARTIAL AMERICAN PLAN WORKED OUT AT WHITE HOUSE. THOUGH VARIOUS CONTINGENCIES ARE BEING TAKEN INTO CONSIDERATION, AMERICAN ASSUMPTION IS THAT ISRAEL IS PREPARED TO WITHDRAW FROM PASSES AND ABU RODEIS TO A DEPTH STILL TO BE NEGOTIATED, WHILE SADAT HAS GIVEN ENCOURAGING HINTS ABOUT MAKING THINGS EASIER FOR ISRAEL IN BOYCOTT SPHERE (INCLUDING CANAL ARRANGEMENTS) AND, ACCORDING TO AMERICAN SOURCES, WHOSE READINESS TO EXPEDITE DRAFTING OF PUBLIC FORMULAS WHICH COULD 'DISARM ISRAELI SUSPICIONS'. ONE POSSIBILITY IS THAT EGYPT WOULD MODERATE TONE OF ITS PUBLIC UTTERANCES; AN INDICATION OF SERIOUS INTENTION TO PROGRESS TOWARD A SETTLEMENT IS ALSO SEEN IN CAIRO-PLO QUARREL. KISSINGER WHILE EXPLAINING TO EGYPTIANS THAT SOME AGREEMENT WILL HAVE TO BE SIGNED WITH ISRAEL, CLAIMS THAT WHAT EGYPTIANS WILL PROMISE US IS NO LESS IMPORTANT. ISRAEL IS BEING PROMISED THAT US WILL NOT COMMIT ITSELF TO SUPPORT ANY EGYPTIAN DEMAND BEFORE THE START OF NEGOTIATIONS. BRUNT OF AMERICAN EFFORT THESE LAST DAYS HAS BEEN DIRECTED TOWARDS SAUDI ARABIA, IN VIEW OF SADAT'S COMPLAINT THAT FEISAL SEEMS TO THROW HIS SUPPORT BEHIND SYRIAN GENEVA DEMAND RATHER THAN STAGE-BY-STAGE POLICY."

3. SEGEV STORY IN MAARIV SAYR: " EGYPT'S TERMS HAVE HARDENED AGAIN: DEMAND FOR OPENING THE CANAL FOR INTERNATIONAL SHIPPING IS NOW THAT ISRAEL SHALL WITHDRAW FROM ABU RODEIS AS WELL AS FROM PASSES. FEISAL, DIPLOMATIC SOURCES IN WASHINGTON SAY, HAS TOLD SYRIANS THAT HE DOES NOT OBJECT TO A PARTIAL SETTLEMENT IN SINAI, BUT US DOES NOT YET KNOW WHETHER HE WILL PRESS FOR A SIMILAR SETTLEMENT ON GOLAN HEIGHTS. IF THAT IS HIS POSITION, US OFFICIALS BELIEVE, ASAD WILL FEEL ENCOURAGED TO DEMAND A FURTHER WITHDRAWAL ON HEIGHTS, AND CHANCES OF ACHIEVING FURTHER AGREEMENT WILL BE NIL. US OFFICIALS FEEL AS GOOD AS CERTAIN THAT EGYPT'S FIRST OFFER WILL BE MINIMAL AND UNACCEPTABLE TO ISRAEL, BUT ADD THAT KISSINGER WILL TRY TO BRIDGE GAP IN A SHUTTLE OPERATION. HE EXPECTS TO BE BACK IN WASHINGTON ON MARCH 26, BUT WILL ALMOST CERTAINLY UNCLASSIFIED

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HAVE TO EXTEND HIS STAY IN THE MIDDLE EAST."
KEATING UNQUOTE INGERSOLL

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